

VESUVIUS IN ERUPTION

MOUNT VESUVIUS, the most famous volcano in the world's history, which, as every school-boy knows, destroyed the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, is again in eruption and great alarm is felt for the safety of life and property in the vicinity of the volcano. The flow of lava goes on unchecked, and if the eruption continues on the alarming scale it has lately reached it will cause frightful misery and immense damage. The lava torrent near the crater, which has a width of half a mile, divides into three principal streams, each seventy to eighty yards wide. These as they pour



A NEW FISSURE.

down the mountain side, again subdivide into numerous smaller streams. They advance at the rate of forty yards an hour, submerging everything in their path, searing the vegetation in the vicinity as though fire had passed over it. An enormous quantity of lava keeps pouring out of the crater. It has filled Vetrana valley, a deep ravine, and ashes lie several inches thick for a long distance down the sides of the mountain and on the adjacent villages. The inhabitants of these villages are in a state of suspense, not knowing what moment the volcano may burst forth in all its fury and bury them the same as it did the inhabitants of Pompeii over 1,800 years ago.

The slope of the mountain is one of the most thickly populated districts in the world. The fertility of the soil

Naples, the largest city of Italy, and overlooks the Bay of Naples. At its base Vesuvius is thirty miles in circumference. Its height varies after its eruption north side is a lofty, semi-circular cliff, called Monte Somma, which has a prehistoric crater. It is separated from the active volcano by a deep valley several hundred feet wide.

The Vesuvius of the ancients was a truncated cone, with a base of eight or nine miles and a height of 4,000 feet. At its summit was a depressed plain, three miles in diameter. On this plain Spartacus, the gladiator, fought Claudius Pulcher. There is no record of an eruption of Vesuvius prior to A. D. 79, although the latter-day scientists have proved that it must have been active before that time. At the beginning of the Christian era the sides of the Vesuvius were covered with fields and vines, and its crater was overgrown with wild grapes. It is certain that the people living near it at that time had not the slightest idea that it was an active volcano, for the writings of Pliny the Younger and Tacitus show that it gave warning for thirteen years before the great eruption. There were a series of earthquakes and tremendous seismic disturbances.

The great historic eruption took place in August, 79 years after Christ. The lava poured down the mountain side in tremendous streams and buried Herculaneum; at the west base: Pompeii, on the southeast side; Stabiae, on the south side, and Castellamare, which was beyond Stabiae. These cities were inundated and forgotten until centuries after, when the remains were dug up and gave the moderns a perfect insight into the manners and customs of the time of the big eruption. For centuries Vesuvius was quiet. People who lived about it forgot that it had once buried cities and killed thousands. Again did vines cover the crater and its sides were cultivated fields. There had been six months of earthquakes, but these were not accepted as a warning.

Vesuvius burst forth in mighty fury



MOUNT VESUVIUS.

is unsurpassed, four crops a year being gardened in the best parts.

The spectacle at night is one of indescribable grandeur, and travelers from all parts of Europe flock to see the volcano in action. The faint, palpitating glow that nominally marks the great crater is exchanged for a vivid tongue of light, colored at times almost like a rainbow, illuminating the heavens and reflected with exquisite effect in the waters of the bay. These manifestations are accompanied by deep rumblings and thunderous subterranean



ON THE EDGE OF THE CRATER.

tions, but the average is about 4,000 feet. Its great crater is some 2,000 feet in diameter and about 500 feet deep. It consists of two distinct parts. The eruptions, followed by great outpourings of lava and ashes. The fresh lava streams moving down the mountain side, steadily encroaching more and more on the cultivated regions, have already caused extensive loss. Several new craters have appeared around the central one, and from these the lava also flows.

Mount Vesuvius lies eight miles from

IN THE BROOMCORN BELT.

Crop Proves Profitable in Certain Parts of Illinois.

The busy day for the broomcorn grower is harvest time. The time extends from the 1st of August until Oct. 1. This is arranged by the time of planting, which is during the months of May and June. The farmer plants his broomcorn so that it will ripen at different times during the harvesting period. Great judgment must be used in cutting or harvesting it. If it is cut before ready it will not weigh well and the fiber is not up to standard. Then if it is ripe, or nearly so, it will be colored and that will detract from the price. The ground is plowed and thoroughly pulverized before planting. The cultivating is after the manner of Indian corn. When ready to harvest the farmer gathers his force.

A man walks between two rows breaking the stalks and laying them across each other so as to form a table about three feet high. A man passes along on each side of the table and cuts off the heads or tops of the broomcorn. From four to eight inches of the stalk is left with each head. The tool used for cutting broomcorn is a knife similar to the ordinary shoe knife. The breaking of these stalks serves two purposes. It places the heads in position so they may be cut off readily and form a place to lay the heads. Four rows of heads are placed on each table. Teams pass through the field between the table rows and the corn is loaded and hauled to the thrashing place. Here it is placed on long tables, which extend to the seeder. On these tables it is straightened out and placed on a carrier belt, which carries it through the seeder. From the seeder it is carried to a barn or shed prepared with shelving, where it is scattered out and left to dry from two to four weeks. When sufficiently dry it is placed in bales of 200 to 300 pounds each.

It requires a large amount of addi-

still. In reply, she was told to "shut up," and then followed a perfect volley of abuse out of one of the windows. The lady retired into her house, and the next day had the man arrested. His defense was that he had not said a word, but the parrot had, and, of course, he had no control over the voice of the bird. He added, that, since the magistrate seemed skeptical, he had brought the parrot into court, and would have it give an exhibition of its powers. This the parrot proceeded to do, and in one minute insulted everybody in the room. The magistrate promptly dismissed the case, but told the man that such a rascally bird ought to be strangled on general principles.

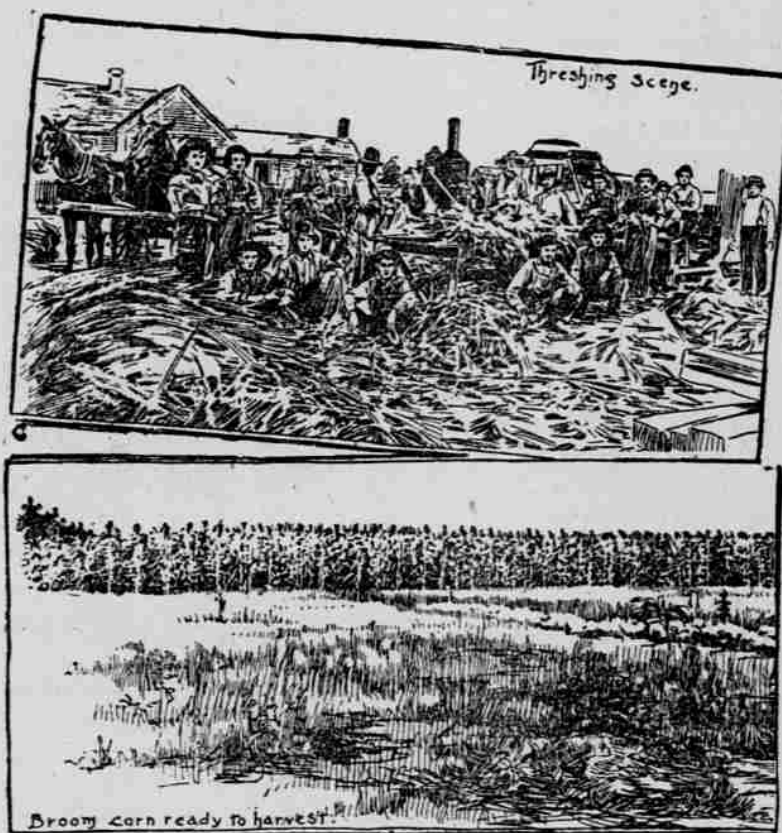
ANCIENT STATUS OF ACTORS.

They Were Classed Among "Rogues, Vagabonds and Sturdy Beggars."

There is a common idea that actors are by law considered as vagabonds, the historic basis being a contemplation of the statutes regarding vagrancy. These statutes, crude and general in terms as were all or most of the early enactments, having been made and renewed between the twenty-third year of Edward III. and the fifth year of Queen Elizabeth, were variously repealed and consolidated in 1572, the act being the 14th Elizabeth, chapter 5. In this act strolling players unlicensed are certainly classed among "rogues, vagabonds and sturdy beggars," who are in the preamble of the act termed "outrageous enemies to the common weal," the penalty on conviction being "that then immediately he or she shall be adjudged to be grievously whipped and burnt through the gristle of the right ear with a hot yron of the compass of an inch about"—a punishment only to be abated by some responsible householder taking him, or her, into service for a full year under proper recognition. A second offense became a felony.

The cause of the act "expressing what person and persons shall be so

BROOM CORN HARVEST OF ILLINOIS.



Broom Corn ready to harvest.

tional farm help and coming at a time of the year when the farm work of other kinds is slack a great body of men from the adjoining country flocks to the broomcorn fields. The broom manufacturer visits the farmer and purchases the crop. Sometimes he depends upon a broomcorn broker. It is sold by the farmer at so much per ton. The price varies from \$50 to \$100 per ton. A ton is the product of from two to three acres. In recent years a large part is manufactured in the broomcorn belt. This broomcorn belt covers but a small part of Illinois. It extends from Neoga on the south to Tuscola on the north, and from Shelbyville on the west to Paris on the east. Broomcorn is not the exclusive crop in this belt, for other crops are grown.

A F Ir Under-tanding.

A few years ago, a young man from just across the Connecticut, who was tending the village academy, became sadly infected with the notion that all the maidens were in love with him. While in this state of mind it fell to his lot one evening to see Miss H. safely to her father's domicile. On arriving at the door, the lady invited him to enter. He did so. After a few moments' conversation he arose to leave, and as Miss H. was showing him to the door, she innocently enough remarked that she would be pleased to see him again. Here was an occasion for the exercise of Jonathan's courage and moral principle. Expanding himself to his tallest height, with a graceful but determined inclination of the head, he replied: "I should be happy, miss, to call as a friend, but not as a feller!"

In Just One Minute.

An educated parrot gave rise to a law suit in Montana, recently. The man that owned the parrot was making a great deal of noise in his house one night, and a lady who lived next door, becoming annoyed, asked him to keep

extended within this branch to be rogues, vagabonds, and sturdy beggars" includes the following: "Pretended prophets, gamblers, persons 'fainting themselves to have knowledge in phisnomie, palmestrie, or other abused sciences,' quasi-labourers who will not work, unlicensed jugglers, pedlars, tinkers, petty chapmen, counterfeiters, and users of licenses and passports, shipmen pretending losses at sea." The following inclusion deals directly with the subject of actors: "All fenceers, beare wardes, common players in interludes, and minstrels, not belonging to any baron of the realm, or towards any honourable personage of greater degree . . . which shall wander abroad and have not licenses of two Justices of the peace of the least, whereof one bee of the quorum where and in what shire they shall happen to wander."—The Nineteenth Century.

Copper in Maine.

Maine is again to enter the list of copper mining States. The deposits, which are numerous and valuable, were worked more than twenty-five years ago, but a sudden decline in the price of copper made them unprofitable; improved and cheapened method of production is the cause of resumption of work.

Flogging as a Cure.

A Scotch doctor proposed a flogging as a cure for habitual drunkards before the British Medico-Psychological Society of Edinburgh. For the "alcoholic crave" he suggested as a remedy blistering and the application of plasters, and for "the plea of heredity" that a man should be flogged within an inch of his life every time he took a drink.

The Husband—"My dear, did you get any good from the sermon to-day?" The Wife—"I did; I am fully convinced that I might be worse than I am."—Puck.

A crop of sprains and bruises is harvested from outdoor sports. The cure is the crop St. Jacobs Oil delights in is the triumph of the season, the one hat beats the record.

Fearless Men.

There is a condition possible to some few souls that if not really the highest attribute of humanity would be chosen by most men of noble mold were selection possible. It is the unawed tranquillity, the absolute inability to fear, that some men, not many, possess, or rather, one should say, by which some men are possessed. An instance of such courage on a low plane is that of Potemkin kicking aside the bloody head of his predecessor as he stepped to the block, an act almost indelicate enough to be humorous, yet withal significant of an iron nerve.

Somewhere in the late seventies another Russian, but this time a savant, gave a proof of what length a rapt intensity of purpose will carry a man to. In order to make good his theory that a suicide may be deliberate and unrepenting he subjected himself to hideous torture, ending in death, but under such circumstances that he might have relinquished his design at any stage of its progress. He lay on his back upon a bedstead from which he had stripped all the clothing, with a lamp placed underneath him so that the flame just touched his spine, rising at intervals to make notes, which were afterward published. They show a calm spirit of research and are slightly triumphant in tone, though touched into high relief once or twice by an expression of anguish.—F. Foster in North American Review.



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